

Communities in Schools of Orange County

**Helping Kids
Prepare for
Life**



Annual Report 2003-2004



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Mission: Communities in Schools of Orange County (CISOC) champions the connection of needed community resources to schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school, and prepare for life.



5 Basics:

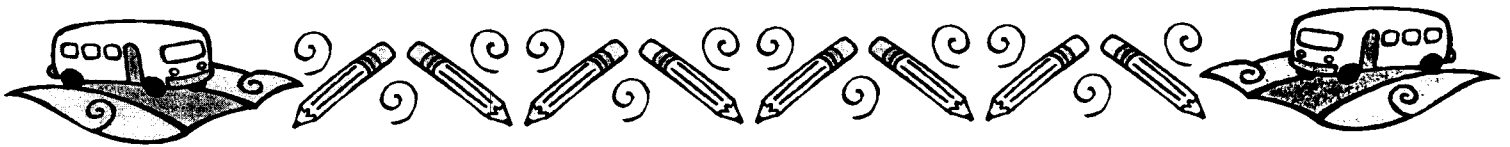
CISOC believes that every child needs and deserves:

- * A one-on-one relationship with a caring adult
- * A safe place to learn and grow
- * A healthy start and a healthy future
- * A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- * A chance to give back to peers and community

History of CISOC

In 1992, several community partners, agencies, and local schools became concerned about the overall success of students. While researching this issue, they became aware of the national Communities In Schools effort to help students stay in school and succeed. Realizing the success of the national program, locals began moving towards starting a Communities In Schools in Orange County, and in 1994, the organization was formed.

CISOC is a non-profit, non-partisan, community based organization. By addressing social, economic, and educational barriers, CISOC helps youth that are at risk for academic failure succeed in school.



Description of programs

Stanback: The CISOC program at A.L. Stanback Middle School was tailored to address the specific needs of that school. Coordinated by Lorraine Parker, this program reaches the needs of a large number of students and still provides the freedom to do periodic intensive case management when necessary. This Whole-School Project Strategy brokers services to students as needed, as opposed to providing them directly via CIS-employed staff. The intent is to improve outcomes for the entire student body.

Culbreth: The CISOC program at Grey Culbreth Middle School is modeled after the Traditional Project Strategy design. Site Director Michael Stafford oversees three self-contained elective classes, divided by grade level, during the school day. Teachers, counselors, and parents can refer students to this program. Some students also use the method of self-referral. Case management coordination and brokered program services from the community provide a comprehensive support network for enrolled students.

Project SMITH (Smith Middle Intensive Tutorial Help): 2003-2004 was the inaugural year of Project SMITH, a pilot project at Smith Middle School that targeted Latino/Hispanic middle school students for one-on-one tutorial support after school. The program served a group of 17 students 3 days a week as part of the Middle School After School program that was already in place at Smith. The site coordinator of this new program was Marsha Anderson, who came to CIS through the Johnson Intern Program. This was a one-year social justice and leadership development program that is run through Chapel of the Cross, an Episcopal parish in Chapel Hill. A grant from Stowd-Roses, Inc. A Charitable Foundation, along with many volunteers from UNC and the community at large, made Project SMITH possible this year.

Middle School After School: The Middle School After School Program (MSAS) provides students with productive and enriching activities at the end of the school day. Students receive individual and small group academic help and may participate in activities ranging from art and creative writing to EOG prep and First Aid/CPR. The program is offered at all middle schools in both the Orange County and Chapel Hill/Carrboro City School Districts. Transportation is provided for the students who need it.



End Of Grade Test Results

Students who are referred to our programs often struggle with their classwork. When they enter our programs, along with connection to human service resources, they receive one-on-one tutorial support which helps them improve their grades. One measure of this improvement is their End of Grade (EOG) test results. Each student in the state of North Carolina takes the EOGs. The students' scores are broken down into scores of either a 1, 2, 3, or 4. A student passes the EOG when they score either a 3 or a 4 on the test. The student must pass the EOGs to be able to advance to the next grade. CISOC uses these EOG scores to measure the effectiveness of the programs we provide.

Stanford Middle School

Of 2 (6th grade) students
50% passed reading and
50% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	2	1
Reading	4	1
Math	2	1
Math	3	1

Of 10 (7th grade) students
90% passed reading and
70% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	2	1
Reading	3	8
Reading	4	1
Math	1	1
Math	2	2
Math	3	6
Math	4	1

Of 23 (8th grade) students
82.6% passed reading and
69.6% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	1	1
Reading	2	3
Reading	3	16
Reading	4	3
Math	1	1
Math	2	6
Math	3	13
Math	4	3

Culbreth Middle School

Of 11 (6th grade) students
54.5% passed reading and
81.8% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	1	1
Reading	2	4
Reading	3	5
Reading	4	1
Math	2	2
Math	3	8
Math	4	1

Of 8 (7th grade) students
100% passed reading and
100% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	3	7
Reading	4	1
Math	3	2
Math	4	6

Of 9 (8th grade) students
100% passed reading and
100% passed math with:

Subject	Score	# of Students
Reading	3	6
Reading	4	3
Math	3	8
Math	4	1

Project Smith

Of 12 students, 33.33% passed the reading.*

Of the same 12 students, 58.33% were proficient in math.*

*Some students in this cohort were not required to take the EOGs.

MSAS

MSAS outcome evaluation is compiled by **EdStar**, program evaluators for Support Our Students Initiative (SOS). The findings are then gathered and distributed to all SOS after school programs. This year the Orange County MSAS program served a total of **1688 students at 6 locations.**

At the end of the year, **89%** of MSAS students were reading at Grade Level or Above.

91% of these students were proficient in math at Grade Level or Above.

CISOC Site Updates

Job Shadowing:

We would like to thank the following people and organizations who helped with the 2004 job shadowing program:

Chapel Hill Police Department

Officer Leo Vereen

Kent Murray - Photographer

Mr. And Mrs. Young - Wildlife

Marsha Adams - Paramedic

Myra Austin - Recreation Therapy And Wellness

Kelly Clements - Funeral Director

Rev. Richard Greenway - Minister

Gean McBane - Librarian

Tammy Comar - Administrative Assistant

Carrboro Plaza Veterinary Clinic

Georganne Sebastian - Pharmacist

Jennifer Wilson - Teacher

Hal Durham - Law Enforcement

Kim Horton - Hair Dresser

Maryellin Petrin - Realtor

Jayne Loftis - Nursing



In 2003, CISOC took a group of 9 students from the CIS program at Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill on a trip around North Carolina, from the coast to the mountains. CISOC wanted to provide these students with a better understanding of the state in which they live. In 2004, the program continued when we took 9 more students on a 4-day tour of the coast of North Carolina. In some instances due to economic hindrances, many students enrolled in CIS programs have not traveled outside the Orange County area. The purpose of this trip was to remove barriers so that students can explore and experience life outside their current environment. **The students that were chosen for the trip demonstrated academic progress, responsibility, and had good attendance and citizenship at Culbreth Middle School.** While at the Outer Banks, the

students experienced many great things and visited historical and popular sites, including the Lost Colony performance, the

Roanoke Aquarium in Roanoke, the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kitty Hawk, the ocean, the sound, and a Durham Bulls game. Thanks to all people who helped make this trip possible.

This fiscal year, one of CISOC's 7th grade students at A.L. Stanback Middle School was diagnosed with fluid around the brain stem. She went through surgery at UNC Hospital. After the surgery was complete, Rachel developed blood clots in her lungs and an infection that could not be cured. She was airlifted to Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, where she passed away six weeks later. CISOC provided support and food for the family. The student body of Stanback raised a large amount of money toward the funeral bill. She is greatly missed and we send our condolences to the family.

Volunteers:

On average, volunteers to CISOC donate 40 hours a week of their time. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who have donated their time and talents to help the students in Orange County:

Kristie Adams

Ginny Allen

Julliana Allen

Darrell Battle

Tiquila Battle

Meagan Bearrows

Zack Beasley

Chris Bennett

Jennie Biser

Stephani Bossard

Loghan Boteler

Dietra Buxton

Jessica Carpenter

Jonny Chen

Latoya Cherry

Matt Clark

Turquoise Edwards

Lydia Efird

Jeanne Evans

Jillian Fina

Michael Fischer

Katy Flinn

Heather Foust

Jenya Gaskin

Abby Gillespie

Vernia Hall

Tenille Hardy

Katherine Harper

Byron Huff

Courtney Jeffries

Jeanne Kearney

Lisa Klingenmaier

Karen Lloyd

Sarah Long

Jessica Lopez

Mary Martha McKinley

Milena Mihaylova

Jennifer Morton

Jessica Oliver

Kimberly Parker

Seema Patidar

Jane Pepler

James Pollack

Nelson Ross

Melissa Sauer

Chelsey Lee Saunders

Jessica Scharle

David Scott

Wesley Sigmon

Princess Small

Lauren Southern

Jenni Summerville

Taylor Toothman

Linhda Tran

Leah Vasquez

Rebecca Wilhelm

Lindsay Zimmerman

School Stuff Drive

Each year, CISOC has a school stuff drive to collect school supplies for local students. This past year was a huge success. With the help of young, up-and-coming professionals from Chapel Hill and RTP, we were able to hold a gala at Spice Street in Chapel Hill. Thanks to the help of these professionals, who made a generous donation of \$1000 plus supplies, we were able to help over 750 students get the supplies they needed to succeed in school.



Hellos and Goodbyes

Rachel Creager served as the second Americorps*VISTA volunteer for CISOC during 2003-2004. She served in the capacity of Director of Programs and Volunteer Coordinator. During her time at CISOC, Rachel worked hard to increase the number of volunteers for the projects. She also created, designed, and implemented the inaugural directory of local resources in Orange County. The directory also addresses problems that most middle school age children face in the 21st century. Rachel has distributed the guide to all schools and local centers, for parents and other adults to use as a guide to help with their children. Rachel's vision for the guide includes yearly updates by the incoming Director of Programs and availability on the CISOC website and other community websites. At the end of her year of service, Rachel will be returning to college, to pursue a career in physical therapy. We wish her well! Good luck in the future!



We hope to have a new VISTA volunteer for the 2004-2005 school year.

Tora Taylor our administrative assistant has left CIS for a full time job at UNC-CH. She will be greatly missed and we wish her good luck in all future endeavors.

We would like to welcome the new administrative assistant, Sanford Lyles. He is a current UNC-CH student and a former non-profit executive director. He has great experience and many skills that will be used here at CISOC.

Individual and Community Partners

CISOC would like to thank all of its Community Partners for their ongoing support. Without their help, the work we do would not be possible!

Alpha Phi Omega
Back to School Benefit Co.
Bell South
Blackman & Sloop
Blue Cross / Blue Shield of N.C.
Campus Y - UNC
Cathy LaFone
Carolyn Miller
Carrboro United Methodist Women
Catherine Marshall
CCB
CH/C Public School Foundation
Chapel of the Cross
Comfort Inn of Morehead City
CISNC
Culbreth Middle School PTSA
DJJDP

Duke Power
Durham Bulls
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Exploris Museum
First Baptist Church of Hillsborough
Frank Camp
GlaxoSmithKline
Greenberg & Himmelberg
James and Lorna Harris
Jane Tuohey
Ken Creager
Kingsdown, Inc.
Martha Head
Martin Brody
Michael and Margaret Stafford
Neil Pederson
N.C. Aquarium of Roanoke

Orange County Government
Progress Energy
SOS Program
Sports Endeavors
Strowd-Roses Incorporated
Time Warner Cable
Town of Carrboro
Town of Chapel Hill
Town of Hillsborough
Triangle SportsPlex
Triangle United Way
University Ford
Valerie Foushee
Wachovia
Wal-Mart - Durham, Hills.
Weaver Street Market

2003-2004 CISOC Boards

New Board Members

This past year, Communities In Schools of Orange County had the opportunity to add 2 new members to the board. We extend a warm Welcome and Thank You to these people for their interest and commitment to CISOC.

Latonya M. Humphrey: Senior Business Process Auditor of Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina

Jon Wilner: Director of The Arts Center of Carrboro/Chapel Hill and Orange County

Departing Board Members

CISOC would like to bid farewell and thanks to the following board members for their service to CISOC in fiscal year 2003-2004.

Carl Johnson

Edward Sechrest

Ed Penny

Yardley Hunter

2003-2004 Board of Directors:

Dr. Shirley Carraway

Superintendent of Orange County Schools

James Harris, Board Chair

Carrboro Dir. of Community and Economic Development

Latonya M. Humphrey

Senior Business Process Auditor, BCBS of NC

Robin McDuffie, Treasurer

CPA, Blackman and Sloop

Trish Whiting

MSAS Representative

Valerie Foushee

CHCCS Board Member, Chapel Hill Police Department

Sharron Hinton, Nominations Chair

Management Analyst, for the Office of the County Manager

Carl Johnson, Marketing and Communications Chair

McNutt and Associates

Neil Pedersen

Superintendent of Chapel Hill/Carrboro City Schools

Jon Wilner

Dir. The Arts Center of Carrboro/Chapel Hill and Orange Co.

Advisory Council

Last year CISOC created the Advisory Council comprised of agency heads, longtime community supporters of CISOC, and former board members. The purpose of the Advisory Council is to advise CISOC on issues that face youth in our community.

Jacqueline Boyd

Principal, Culbreth Middle School

Nancy Coston

Director, Orange Co. Social Services

Gwen Price, Designee

Peggy Hamlett

Chief Court Counselor, DJJDP

Steve Stadler, Designee

Ernest Jenkins

Business Operations Manager, Fidelity Insurance

Tom Maynard

Area Director, OPC Mental Health

Ann Osburn

Principal, Stanback Middle School

Semary Summers

Health Director, Orange County Health Department

Judy Butler, Designee

Michael Cureton

Family Involvement Specialist, CASS CHC City Schools

Stephen H. Halkiotis

County Commissioner

Jim Huegerich

Crisis Counselor, Chapel Hill Police Department

John Link

Orange County Manager

Ann Rimmer, Assistant

Janet McLamb

Attorney, McLamb & Vira, P.A

Kathy Osborne

Orange County Schools

Ken Touw

King Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Board Members of the Year

Congratulations to **Carl Johnson** and **Robin McDuffie** who were elected Board Members of the Year by the CISOC Staff!!!



Carl Johnson was the Chair of Marketing and Communications and an employee of McNutt and Associates. Carl did many great things for CISOC last year including creating new and exciting brochures for CISOC, and working to update and redesign the website.

Robin McDuffie is the Board Treasurer and an employee of Blackman and Sloop CPAS, PA. Robin has been a great financial advisor for CISOC. Not only did she prepare reports for board meetings, but she also came in numerous times during each month to review financial records with CISOC staff.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Carl Johnson and Robin McDuffie for all that they have done on behalf of the youth of Orange County and CISOC.

Message From the Board Chair

This Annual Report for Communities In Schools of Orange County, Inc. (CISOC) provides a welcome opportunity for accountability to the Orange County community. On June 30, 2004, the organization concluded a very successful program year on solid footing. I wish to take this opportunity to thank my fellow CISOC Board members, and CISOC office staff for a very successful year. Also, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Advisory Council, consisting of Orange County Government officials and community agency directors for continued support.

Due to a challenging economy, CISOC experienced a decrease in individual and corporate support; however, funding was secured for a new initiative at Smith Middle School in Chapel Hill, and for additional programming at Stanback Middle in Hillsborough to address childhood obesity issues. Program participants achieved overwhelming results. **Last school year, Communities In Schools of Orange County, Inc. provided 1768 students with connection to program services and resources...** So in essence, we did have a banner year.

CISOC is committed to continue its mission to meet the needs of students in Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Orange County Schools. We believe that by providing resources to students it reduces barriers to learning. Our goal is to "help kids prepare for life," and, we can continue this effort with your on-going support. We are heading into an exciting future. Give us a call to become a part of the Communities In Schools family. We look forward to an even more successful 2004-2005 school year.

Sincerely,

James Harris

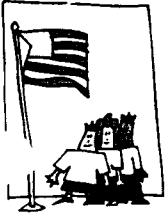
2004 CISOC Board Chair

Executive Directors Report: The Future of CISOC

I celebrated my 5th year with the organization this past year. Going into my 6th year, I have seen Communities in Schools of Orange County come a long way. Now it is time to move even farther ahead in hopes to make this community the best it can be. Orange-Person-Chatham Mental Health Services will be divesting its services over the next several years, and once this has occurred, OPC will no longer be implementing direct services and many Orange County residents will not be receiving the mental health services they need. Large portions of this group are children. CISOC hopes to be able to bring those mental health services for children under the umbrella of our organization. CIS will be able to implement the needed services in the pre-existing programs in all of the area middle schools. We are currently exploring and developing additional funding sources. I would like to take this time to thank all of the board and advisory council members. I would also like to thank all of the community members who have given of their time and money to make sure that this organization thrives. If it weren't for community support, nothing we do would be possible.

Summer Volunteer

This summer, CISOC had the honor of having a wonderful volunteer, Liz Heymann. Liz spent her summer in the Chapel Hill area and decided CISOC would be a great place for her to volunteer her time. She believes the mission of CISOC is a great one and having the time to work one-on-one with children who have fewer resources is a great way to motivate them for school. Liz will be starting her junior year at Harvard University in the fall, majoring in American History. After graduation, she hopes to teach and then get a Ph.D. in administrative policy. Miss Heymann felt rewarded to have had the opportunity to help such a great organization.



No Child Left Behind: Leaving Behind our Communities

By: Liz Heymann

President George W. Bush said in January 2001 of his new No Child Left Behind education policy, "These reforms express my deep belief in our public schools and their mission to build the mind and character of every child, from every background, in every part of America." Bush's somewhat controversial changes to the United States Department of Education claim to increase accountability, choice, flexibility, and to emphasize reading in an attempt to provide the best possible public education for each and every child.

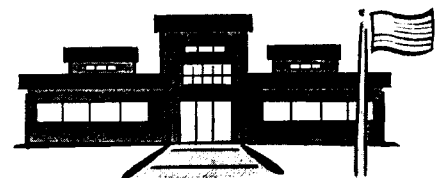
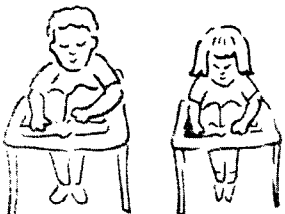
Whether or not one supports George Bush and his changes to the educational system, there is no denying that the No Child Left Behind policy has caused school districts to make changes in their approach to students at risk for academic failure. For the first time, schools are held accountable for the success or failure of each and every child. Because Communities in Schools of Orange County has always been concerned with students at risk for academic failure, this new policy and the way in which it has been implemented in our schools is of particular interest to an organization of people committed to helping students who, because of issues in their communities and homes, may have more trouble succeeding in the classroom. This article explores the challenges that No Child Left Behind has presented to administrators. Superintendents of the Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Drs. Shirley Carraway and Neil Pedersen, were interviewed to give their perspectives.

While most people agree that the objectives of the No Child Left Behind policy are noble ones, it seems that some administrators are skeptical as to whether or not the policy actually awards schools more flexibility. In fact, Superintendent Carraway said in her interview, when asked about the most significant challenge associated with No Child Left Behind, "I guess the greatest challenge is not necessarily what NCLB is asking that we do. The challenge is the way that it assumes that all students can perform at the same level . . . For some of our children, even performing minimally is a challenge, and we need to take that into consideration." Superintendent Pedersen echoed this sentiment in a statement, saying, "In terms of the aspect of NCLB that relates to student performance, I support the philosophy behind the legislation that promotes the mastery of skills for all students. The struggle that many administrators have is how the philosophy has been implemented into regulations. We struggle at times with the rigidity."

It is a nice thought—that no American child would be left behind by the American educational system. But to hold administrators and teachers responsible for the success of each and every child—even children with special needs or circumstances—dooms the policy for failure. When asked about how the No Child Left Behind policy affects children with special needs, specifically those living in poverty and those with limited English proficiency, Carraway said, "[The policy] has drawn our attention to them. It requires that we look at each individual group of students and ensure that each one of those groups measures up, and it has required that all of us address the special needs of all children."

It seems that, despite administrators' added attention to children with special learning needs and circumstances, some children need extra help. According to Pedersen, learning *outside* the classroom is needed if we are to bring these special-needs children up to speed and to prevent them from slipping through the cracks in our educational system. He said about the goals of the No Child Left Behind policies, "I think programs [like the ones promoted by Communities in Schools of Orange County] are essential if we are going to meet these goals. Students need additional support outside of the classroom. Therefore we operate after-school programs and try to bring technology into the home, so we, in effect, extend the instructional day for students who need extra support."

(Con't on page 9)



No Child Left Behind: Leaving Behind our Communities (Con't from page 8)

Communities in Schools of Orange County has always been dedicated to keeping students in school. But recently CISOC has committed itself to after-school programs targeting Latino students with limited English proficiency and to connecting students with mental health needs to resources in the community. And, because of its dedication to students with special needs, and who may be challenged to perform at a level that the No Child Left Behind Policy demands, Communities in Schools of Orange County can be of assistance not only to children and students but also to school administrators. Superintendent Carraway said in her interview, "What we really need is help in the communities. We still have a number of students whose progress is hindered by the circumstances they have at home. We cannot make up in school for the things that students are lacking outside of school. What we need are programs in the community that provide additional support in churches and in families. We need to provide children with the opportunities that will enrich their lives."

So, how can we ensure that our schools successfully help *all* children to learn? It seems that support is needed not only for our schools but also in our communities. The No Child Left Behind policy neglects the fact that children's performance in school is so often determined by factors affecting their communities and their homes. So, in order to ensure that these students can learn in the classroom and measure up to the standards that new legislation requires they do, we need people committed to improving our communities and making them places that foster the learning and the education of all children. We need volunteers to assist children who have special needs and circumstances. We need organizations committed to helping administrators and teachers to do their jobs more effectively. We need our communities to help in our schools, and we need Communities in Schools of Orange County.

Staff:

Sheila Sholes-Ross, Executive Director

Rachel Creager, Director of Programs, VISTA Volunteer

Tora Taylor, Office Assistant

Marsha Anderson, Project Smith Coordinator, Johnson Intern Program